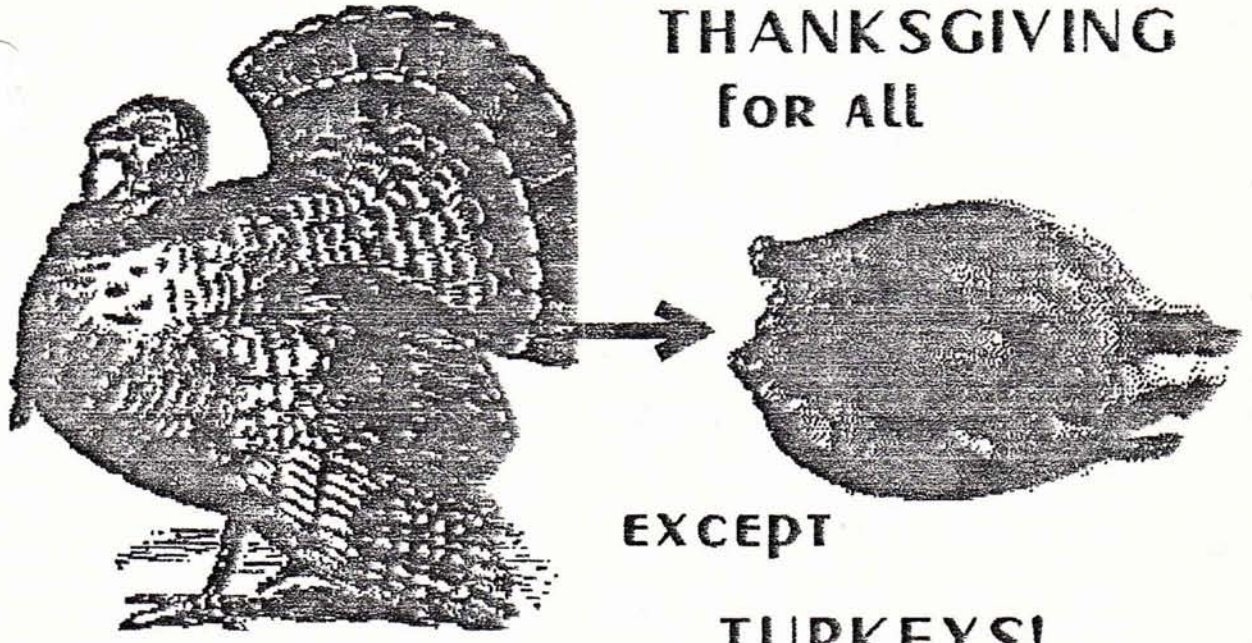
R.A.C.E. JOURNAL

NOVEMBER, 1987

REDDING ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

R.A.C.E. 8-BIT
Roundtable Pizza
Mt. Shasta Mall
1st Saturday of each
Month 1pm
MIKE DENNIS, 547-3998

R.A.C.E. ST SIG
Angelo's Pizza Parlor
1774 California Street
2nd Saturday of each
Month 7pm
MIKE FARRAR, 243-5189, 347-0416



R.A.C.E. P.O. BOX 818, COTTONWOOD, CA. 96022

R.A.C.E. ST SIG MEETING NOTES

October 1987

Bob Wierman began the Help Session of the ST SIG meeting by demonstrating ColorSpace a program from England. He stated that he has accomplished most of what he has set out to do and until there are increases in new members who would benefit from a beginner session that the meeting possibly needs to go in another direction.

Mike Farrar took over the meeting at this point and began the General Session early. He demonstrated several programs. One called SuperNeo originated from Europe and displays some very impressive graphics with music. Apparently there is some problems with displaying this program on the older color monitors. Several he had tried would roll the picture or cut off part of the text which scrolls across the screen. These problems deal with some unique ways the program was created. Mike and others discussed the need for minutes of the meeting to be taken and for members to submit articles to the newsletter. Mike encouraged members to send him articles either on disk or written form and he would try to include them in the newsletter of the group. Another way that these articles could be sent to Mike would be over the phone lines to his BBS. Just upload the text file to his Bulletin Board System at 916-243-0297.

The format of the meeting was discussed next. With the temporary dropping of the Begginer/Help session a substitute was needed. It was suggested that possibly we could have various sessions which would deal with word processing, database management or spreadsheet use. A paper was circulated around and people were encouraged to write down what programs they would like covered. Thi would include trying t answer questions or problems which arise or how to use the programs to their maximum capability.

Lloyd Brooks asked if there was any way that some programming languages could be covered in parts of the meeting. Mike said that we might consider this with some of the more popular programming languages. GFA Basic was a specific example which Mike would like demonstrated. He suggested Ben Drake and/or Bob Wierman demonstrate some aspects of programming in this language at the next meeting. Bob may not be here but Ben was definitely open to the idea.

Next Mike asked who

could bring the computer system to the next meeting. There was a long silence and then Curt Ricketts volunteered to bring his.

Mike passed out some old and new pictures he had taken at the "World of Atari" in Santa Clara. Included in the pictures were the Mega ST, Atari PC, 4 Megabyte 1040ST motherboard, numerous 8-bit computer hardware that was never released, a 250Megabyte Hard disk from Supra Corporation, the Atari Laser Print and numerous other pictures.

Bill and Judy Ball asked about the production of Hard Drives via Cottonwood Computers and why Mike didn't bring the finished prototype tonight. Mike said that he had thought about it and might bring it to a future meeting. He said that the marketing of this hard drive was not financially attractive enough for him but Hi-Tech, a company based in Redding, had taken over the idea and will be giving Cottonwood Computers distribution rights to the local area for a Hard drive of similar proportions and price. Cost may range around $525-550. Mike showed a picture of the new Hard drive from ICD. He had no information on cost as yet. Ben said that he thought he had seen a price of $675 somewhere and the Supra Hard drive averages around $575 through mail order houses.

Ben asked about the new version of FLASH, a telecommunications program, and how to obtain it. Rodney Ray said that he had the new version and what owners had to do was send in $5 to obtain the latest update. Mike said that he might try to get a copy of it through his store and then he could distribute it to registered owners at no charge or a very little charge depending on what Antic would like him to do.

Ben Drake asked where the new XEP 80 Column Box was. Mike said that since it was for the 8-bit computer he felt a little funny bringing it to the ST meeting. He did say that it did work well and should be a nice addition to any 8-bit owners hardware collection.

Mike passed out a SX212 modem for viewing. He is carrying them in his store at the cost of $98.95. They have a built in speaker and seem to be totally Hayes compatible. There are no dip switches to fiddle with and this modem can be used by either an 8-bit Atari or ST.

Someone mentioned that the Mega ST's were being sold in Computer Place in Redding. The Laser Printers are not released yet due to some problems with production. Mike said that his store will not be able to currently sell Megas due to restrictions on who can carry them. Apparently a

store cannot carry the Megas unless they fulfill several requirements. Some of these include a particular size of floor space to display the computer line, buying the service kit which runs around $2800, placing an initial order of $15,000. Mike said that he could probably fulfill the first 2 requirements but the $15,000 initial order was a little steep for his small store. He will keep this in mind and see if there is anyway that he might carry them in the future. He said that he was going to possibly contact a Sacramento store about selling Megas for them through his store.

Mike demonstrated the latest Faster Newsletter on disk. It sells for $7.95 and he will soon be carrying them.

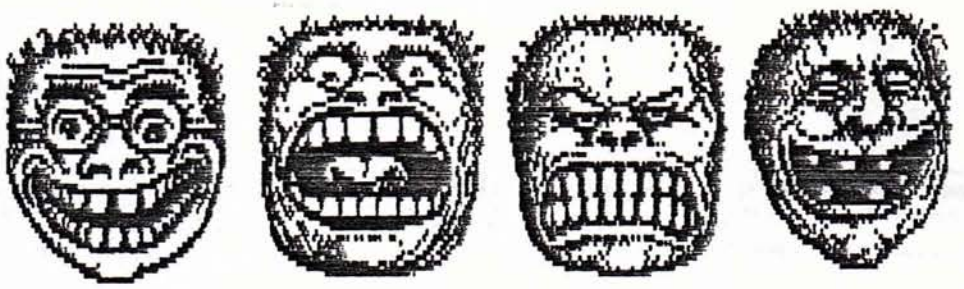
Superbase Personal was then demonstrated by Mike. It is a new database from Progressive Software and Peripherals. It allows you to store pictures of art, text files and floor plans in a database for future reference. Numerous formats of data presentation can be sent to the screen and lots of functions were demonstrated to show its capability. There are 2 versions of it Superbase Personal and Superbase Professional. Price for these run in the range of $100 to $150.

The October Club disk was next to be run. On it was a very well done 8-bit emulator, some Spectrum 512, new art program, slide pictures and a Pacman game from Germany, plus some accessory utilities. These club disks sell for $5 each to non-club members or $3 for club members. If a disk is supplied, $2 is taken off the cost.

Someone asked if headphones were available for the ST so that could be used while other things were going on in the home, business or school. Mike said that he would try to look into this and possible using the Monitor Master would allow for headphones.

Judy Ball gave Mike the huge task she and her husband have been working on for the ST SIG group. The are compiling a list c hints and tips for use o the Atari ST. They had a copy of their work which was passed around. It could be seen from this copy that a lot of work had gone into it and was rather impressive. They will continue to work on it and add to it as members participate in its development. Members who become aware of little tricks that can be accomplished with the keyboard or mouse with the ST are encouraged to get their discoveries to Mike Farrar or Bill and Judy Ball. Well until next time, may all of your sectors remain error free!

THAT'S NOT MY JOB



THIS IS THE STORY ABOUT FOUR PEOPLE NAMED:

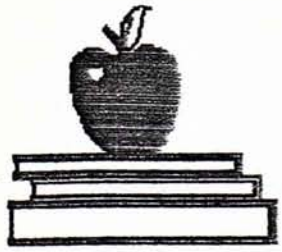
EVERYBODY
SOMEBODY
ANYBODY
NOBODY

THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT JOB TO BE DONE AND EVERYBODY WAS SURE THAT SOMEBODY WOULD DO IT. ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT, BUT NOBODY DID IT. SOMEBODY GOT ANGRY ABOUT THAT, BECAUSE IT WAS EVERYBODY'S JOB. EVERYBODY THOUGHT ANYBODY COULD DO IT, BUT NOBODY REALIZED THAT EVERYBODY WOULDN'T DO IT. IT ENDED UP THAT EVERYBODY BLAMED SOMEBODY WHEN NOBODY DID WHAT ANYBODY COULD HAVE.

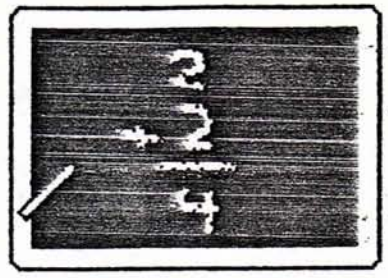
Why not see how you can help with the R.A.C.E. ST SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP. Possibilities are writing articles for the newsletter, adding programs or files to the library or demonstrating some software at a club meeting. Volunteers would be appreciated.

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

By Traci Burton



SCHOOL DISKETTES
Nov. 1, 1987



MATH

Decimal Dungeon
Fraction to decimal conversions, percent to decimal conversions, decimal to percent conversions and addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals. Fractions range from halves to ninths and decimals range from tenths to thousandths. Ability to change difficulty level, use a timer, 1 or 2 player. Gives a short explanation if the problem is missed.

Math Wizard
Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. Ability to change difficulty level, use a timer, 1 or 2 player.

Fraction Action
Allows addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions. Difficulty level ranges from common denominators to unlike denominators less than 10. Ability to change difficulty level, use a timer, 1 or 2 player. Gives a short explanation if the problem is missed. Can be VERY challenging.

MathTalk Fractions
Works with fractions, decimals and percents. Can enter own problems or play any of the four math games. User can choose difficulty level of games.

Geometry
Introduction to basic geometrical notation, such as measurement, perimeter, area, volume. Mostly reading, very little student interaction. 5th grade and up.

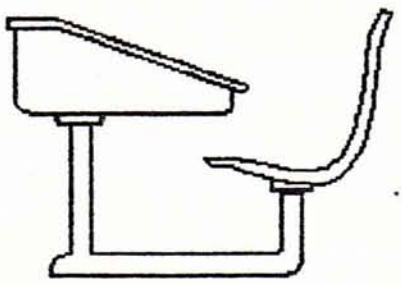
Donald Duck's Playground
Focuses on change-making and logical thinking. Confusing at first.

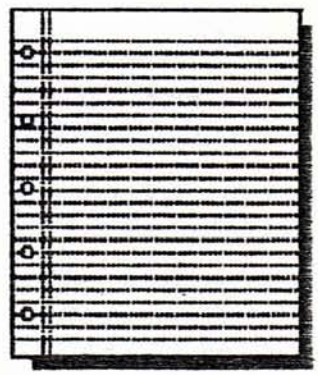
Cooking with Kids
Cookbook program with 60 childrens' recipes. Allows for adding to the recipe files if you also have "Micro Kitchen Companion".

LANGUAGE ARTS

KidTalk
A word processor for kids. Allows different type sizes, will read the story back to you in female or male voice, function to "teach" the computer how to pronounce new words, MUCH more.

PrintMaster Plus
3 art galleries, 4 font libraries and 4 border libraries are available at additional cost. Makes cards, banners, posters, calendars and stationery. Great for holidays and special occasions.





The Typing Tutor
Begins with the home row keys and progresses all the way to capitals and numbers. Short sections which are self-directed. Comes with a typing game. Recommended for first time computer users.

Magical Myths
Develops vocabulary, reading comprehension, and creative writing while learning about Greek mythology.

Speller Bee

Teacher can enter the student's spelling words, then students can play games, take practice tests and teach the computer the proper pronunciation of the words. Comes with pre-made spelling lists on a variety of levels.

Vocabulary list

Comprehensive vocabulary lists for intermediate grade books are available upon request. Caddie Woodlawn, The Cay, The Book of Three, Dragonwings, James and the Giant Peach, The Black Stallion, Charlotte's Web, more on the way...

Word Search

Allows user to create a word search. User defines the dimensions and enters the words. It does the rest. (Public domain)

HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY

States and Capitals #1

Students learn the states and their capitals by their regions and then as a whole. Allows for matching or spelling when learning the regions. Was teacher-created to follow Milliken's Learning about the U.S.A (Public domain)

States and Capitals #2

Medium resolution states and capitals. (Public domain)

States and Capitals #3

Low resolution states and capitals. (Public domain)

Cartographer-Maps and Legends

Creates maps for whatever coordinates, places, projections and altitudes you choose.

Winnie-the-Pooh in the Hundred Acre Wood

Introduction to cardinal directions, map-reading skills.

SCIENCE

New Technology Coloring Book

Highlights certain topics of technology today. Anywhere from Astrophysics to Plate tectonics. Gives a concise description and each topic comes with a

picture that you can "color"

ASTronomer
Allows user to plot star and planet locations for their latitude and longitude. User can define horizon, zenith, magnitudes and much more. (Public domain)

ART/GRAPHICS

Certificate Maker
Over 200 predesigned certificates, you fill in the name, date and print it. Works great with colored printer paper

D.E.G.A.S. Elite
State of the art drawing program.

MUSIC

The Music Studio
Enables you to work with existing ST computer music or enter your own (un)original songs. Makes music very graphic. Ability to work with the sound envelope of the computer generated sounds.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Puzzler
Takes any low res. D.E.G.A.S. picture and scrambles it. Students then work to fit the picture back together. Can be very challenging depending on the picture. (Public domain)

Reversi
A computer version of "Othello". (Public domain)

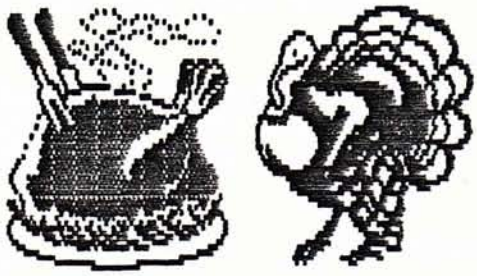
TUTORIALS

Atari ST Tour
Great place to begin...a guided tutorial to the basic functions of the machine.

Traci Burton
Computer Mentor Teacher, Enterprise School District
(916) 241-3917

DRY WELL

by D.B.



HE WAS AN EIGHT BIT HACKER
AND HE KNEW IT ALL BY HEART
HE NEVER MET A PROGRAM
THAT HE COULDN'T TAKE APART.

THEY COULD LOCK IT, THEY COULD HIDE IT
IT MATTERED NOT A WHIT;
IT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE EFFORT
BUT HE DESTORYED IT BIT BY BIT.

OH, HE NEVER HAD A LESSON,
SO WHO'S TO SAY HE WAS TO BLAME,
YET HIS KNOWLEDGE WAS FEROCIOUS
AND HIS ATTITUDE THE SAME.

WE COULD WRITE OUR CODE IN BASIC
IN SOURCE CODE OR IN C...
HE JUST CHUCKLED WHILE HE CRACKED IT
AND HE CRACKED THEM ONE, TWO, THREE.

BUT IT SEEMS HE HAS A PROBLEM
AND HIS HOBBY'S OFF THE TRACK,
FOR HE STOLE SO MANY PROGRAMS
THAT THERE'S NO MORE CODE TO CRACK.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S KIND OF FUNNY
THOUGH HE FOUND THE MOTHER LODE,
HE EXPENDED ALL THAT EFFORT
YET HE NEVER WROTE THE CODE?

NOT ONE PROGRAM DID HE PUBLISH
THOUGH HE KNEW IT EVERY BIT;
WANTED JUST TO KEEP ON HACKING
SO WE ALL COULD BENEFIT.

HE HATED 'FREEWARE' WITH A PASSION
AND HIS MANNER WOULD GET GRUFF
WHEN HE SAW THEY WROTE A PROGRAM
AND DIDN'T TRY TO HIDE THE STUFF.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW JUST HOW YOU SEE IT
BUT HERE'S THE WAY IT SEEMS TO ME,
I'M SURE ALL YOU PROGRAMMERS
WHO'VE LABORED HARD, AGREE.

THAT GUY WAS REALLY SELFISH
AS HE ROBBED OUR DAILY BREAD
I WONDER IF HE'S SORRY THAT
HIS GOLDEN GOOSE IS DEAD!

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NEW ST HARDWARE & SOFTWARE

BY MICHAEL K. FARRAR, O.D.

SOFTWARE

BECKMEYER DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

THIS COMPANY HAS DEVELOPED A POINT-OF-SALE BUSINESS HARDWARE/SOFTWARE PACKAGE THAT INCORPORATES "TOUCH SCREEN" TECHNOLOGY AND ALLOWS ANYONE TO QUICKLY USE THE SYSTEM.

CHROMAGIC SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS

THEY HAVE DEVELOPED A GEM BASED MUSICIAN PACKAGE FOR GUITARISTS. IT IS CALLED GUITARISTICS, THE PROGRAM CAN BE USED TO TEACH BASIC CHORDS, SCALES, AND MUSIC FUNDAMENTALS.

DOUBLE EAGLE SOFTWARE

THEY HAVE INTRODUCED THE 1987 EARLY BIRD ADDITION OF "THE TAX ADVANTAGE". THIS EARLY RELEASE GIVES YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET A HEAD START ON THE UP COMING TAX SEASON.

MERRILL WARD & ASSOCIATES

THIS INNOVATIVE COMPANY HAS INTRODUCED "THE CELEBRITY COOKBOOK" VOL 1. NOW YOU CAN HAVE FAMOUS STAR'S RECIPES AND YOU OWN AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON. AS AN INTERESTING TWIST, THIS RECIPE FILER INCORPORATES A WORD PROCESSOR.

MIGRAPH INCORPORATED

THEY HAVE RELEASED THEIR NEW COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN PROGRAM "M/CADD". THIS 2D/3D CADD PACKAGE IS SUPPOSED TO GO BEYOND ANY CADD PACKAGE THAT HAS EVER BEEN DEVELOPED FOR A DESKTOP COMPUTER ACCORDING TO THE COMPANY. THEY ALSO HAVE RELEASED THEIR "SUPERCHARGER" FOR "EASYDRAW". IT ALLOWS EASYDRAW TO IMPORT SCANNED PICTURES AS WELL AS DEGAS PICTURE FILES.

PSYGNOSIS SOFTWARE

TERRORPODS, AN AMAZING GAME!

HARDWARE

ATARI CORPORATION

THE MEGA II AND IV ARE HERE BELIEVE IT OR NOT AS WELL AS THEIR 1200 BAUD HAYES COMPATIBLE SX212 MODEM.

ASTRA SYSTEMS

HAS DEVELOPED THEIR ASTRA HD+ 20 MEG HARD DRIVE WITH BUILT-IN 720K FLOPPY DRIVE.

DATA PACIFIC INCORPORATED

CONTINUES WITH SUPPORT OF THEIR MAGIC SAC THE MACINTOSH EMULATOR. THEY HAVE NOW DEVELOPED THEIR "TRANSLATOR ONE'. THIS HARDWARE DEVICE PLUGS INTO THE DRIVE PORT AND WILL RUN A GOOD SHARE OF MACINTOSH PROGRAMS RIGHT FROM THE BOX WHEN USED WITH THE MAGIC SAC.

FUTURE SYSTEMS INCORPORATED

HAS INTRODUCED THE GTS-100 DOUBLE-SIDED DRIVE FOR THE ST. IT IS THEIR LATEST DEVELOPMENT. THE DRIVE IS SMALL, QUIET, AND INCLUDES TRACK, POWER AND BUSY INDICATORS ON THE FRONT PANEL FOR DRIVE STATUS. THE DRIVE IS BUILT TO TAKE HEAVY USE AND COMES WITH A 120 DAY WARRANTY.

ICD INCORPORATED

THEY HAVE THE "ST HOST CONTROLLER AND ADAPTER KIT". THIS ALLOWS YOU TO PUT YOUR OWN HARD DRIVE PACKAGE TOGETHER.

SUPRA CORPORATION

THEY WILL SOON RELEASE THEIR 10 MEGABYTE REMOVABLE FLOPPY. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS IS FOR HARD DRIVE BACKUP BUT IT CAN ALSO BE USED AS A STORAGE DEVICE. IT INCLUDES A SCSI PORT WHICH WILL ALLOW IT TO CONNECT TO HARD DRIVES AND DEVICES THAT USE THIS STANDARD INTERFACE.

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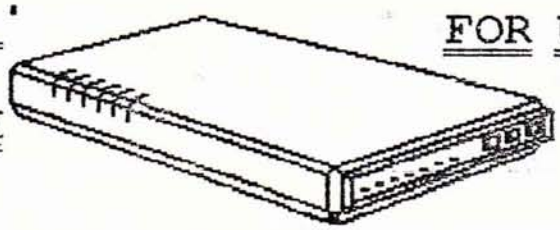

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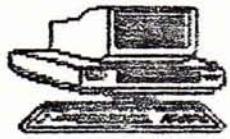

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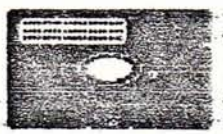

5 1/4" DISKS 10 for $6.00
3.5" DISKS 10 for $12.95

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